

WYCOMBE
MOVE UP
TO SECOND

WYCOMBE Wanderers took over second spot in the Rothmans Isthmian League Division One after their exciting 1-0 triumph over arch-rivals Hendon on Tuesday night at Loakes Park. Hitchin, with a game in hand, are the current leaders but the Blues are only a point behind.

An own goal by centre half Campbell proved the deciding factor in the end but for long periods this game could have gone either way. Territorially, Wanderers held the advantage and created more scoring chances but Hendon were always dangerous with

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Hendon 0 REPORT BY STUART EARP

their fast counter-attacks. This made it a fine game for the spectators and the players did well to master the slippery surface.

Ted Powell, Wycombe's manager, plumped for the same 11 he has fielded for the last three games with Dave Bullock at sub. Ted must have been pleased with this performance, for it went a long way to erasing the 3-0 drubbing handed out to the Blues at Claremont Road in August.

Wanderers showed a marked improvement in mid-field compared to Saturday's 1-1 draw at Ilford while the

forwards looked sharp and eager. It was the defence that seemed a little suspect on Tuesday and Alan Phillips did not have the happiest of games against his former colleagues. Alan took time to settle during his last stay at Loakes Park.

Early on, Wycombe came in for some heavy pressure as Hendon chased eagerly and a tendency to bunch in midfield cancelled out several home attacks. Whenever the Blues stretched the game wide to the wings they looked far more dangerous with Bob Davies and Paul Birdseye always willing to overlap from full back. John Priestley combined well on the

left with Davies, who had his best game for Wanderers to date in the number three shirt.

Howard Kettleborough showed his power in the 12th minute after a fine move involving Phillips, Davies and Mick Holfield. Kettleborough headed the latter's cross well but Paisley tipped the ball over the bar. Hendon were quick to reply with a move that ended with John Butterfield hitting the upright from a narrow angle.

BETTER CHANCES

But it was Wycombe who were creating the better chances and they were unlucky not to go ahead after 28 minutes. A high cross from Paul Birdseye found Tony Horseman who brought the ball down and beat two defenders before squaring to Kettleborough whose shot struck Paisley's legs.

Horseman twice went close before the break but Hendon were well served at the back by Peter Deadman and former Wanderer Gary Hand. Deadman in particular had an outstanding game and there can be few players who match this man for consistency.

Rod Haider drove a shot wide in the first minute of the new half but Wanderers were soon into their stride. A 30 yards burst from Holfield, who beat two men in the run, almost produced a goal for Horseman but his shot on the turn lacked power. A couple of minutes later an intelligent back heel by Kettleborough set up Kennedy for a shooting chance but his effort was blocked by a defender.

Wanderers were unable to maintain this pressure and often their attacks fell down inside the penalty area when the final pass went astray.

The only goal of the game came in the 64th minute—and it was made by Ian Pearson. He took the ball on the bottom wing and was faced by two Hendon defenders. With little support at hand, Pearson decided to go it alone. Cutting inside Hand, he then beat Deadman and raced along the bye-line before crossing low and hard. Campbell tried to control the ball but pushed it over his own line. He hooked the ball out but referee Isaacs awarded the goal after a signal from his linesman.

It can be frustrating when Pearson holds onto the ball too long but on this occasion he produced a flash of brilliance that deserved full credit.

Pearson was involved in the next attack when Birdseye and Kennedy combined to set up a chance for Wycombe's top goalscorer. Pearson struck his shot well from the angle of the penalty area and forced Paisley to palm the ball away for a corner.

RELIABLE MEAD

Although forced to defend and cover for much of the second half Hendon were still dangerous on the break and one goal did not seem enough to guarantee the points. Phillips caused a few missed heartbeats in the crowd three minutes from the end when he missed a clearance kick which let in Anderson. Maskell raced out to kick clear but the ball was blocked and it was the ever reliable Keith Mead who cleared the danger.

Final chance of the night fell to Holfield after Prestley robbed Anderson and sent Horseman away. His cross found Holfield but the shot was driven wide.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, R. Davies, H. Kennedy, J. Priestley, M. Holfield, A. Horseman, H. Kettleborough, I. Pearson. Sub D. Bullock (Not used).

HENDON: A. Paisley, M. Cooper, P. Deadman, A. Campbell, G. Hand, R. Southam, R. Haider, P. Anderson, J. Butterfield, S. Jeffries (sub M. Donogue 73 mins), G. Brooks.

Referee: J. Isaacs (Barking).

Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorer:** Campbell og (64).

Attendance: 1,250.